



The 2012 AWON Brochure

The 2007 AWON Brochure was completed in May 2012 and is conveyed on the two pages that follow.

Please note that if you wish to request physical (printed) brochures, these can be requested from AWON Headquarters by E-Mailing Walt Linne at . . . wlinne@iupui.edu.

Feel free to print the pages here, if necessary, but be aware that the result will likely not produce the quality of the originals. Please also realize that the Brochure COVER is actually the THIRD panel on Page 2, and that the three inside panels are on Page 3.

Why We're Here

The American WWII Orphans Network (AWON) was founded in 1991 by Ann Bennett Mix. Her father, Sydney W. Bennett, was killed in action by a sniper in Mongiorgio, Italy on April 19, 1945, when Ann was four years old.

AWON's first goal was to find other World War II orphans. The federal government did not keep statistics on children born to U.S. servicemen killed or missing in action from World War II. It is estimated that at least 183,000 American children lost their fathers in the service during the war. Ann started finding them, one by one. The first orphans she found provided seed money and support and became AWON's First Founders.

Today, more than 20 years after its founding, AWON is still the only organization in which World War II orphans get support and friendship from other orphans. Our members say we feel like a family, and we are! We grew up without our fathers, many of us barely knowing more than his name. AWON brings us together to learn about our fathers' service and to honor their memory.

AWON welcomes all family members who lost an American serviceman in World War II. Read on to learn more about AWON's accomplishments and ongoing activities aimed at honoring those to whom we owe so much.

In Their Memory



Here We Mark The Price of Freedom



How You Can Help

The American WWII Orphans Network is a 501 (c)3 nonprofit, nonpolitical organization. Gifts serving our missions of public outreach qualify for a tax credit or deduction, as provided by law.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

In Memory of _____

Please make your gift payable to: AWON

National Headquarters

5745 Lee Road

Indianapolis, IN 46216

E-Mail: awon@awon.org

American WWII Orphans Network



We Speak Their Names

www.awon.org

What We Do

In terms of human life, World War II was the costliest war ever fought by Americans on foreign soil. At war's end, 16 million had served and 417,000 had died, including 73,000 who are still missing in action. Their deaths left approximately 183,000 children fatherless and designated war orphans by the Veterans Administration.

As Americans celebrated the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, war orphans reached middle age. For many, the sacrifice did not stop with the end of the war in 1945, as some still live with unanswered questions and unresolved grief as a result of their still missing father.

For 20 years AWON has worked to educate the public about our fathers' service and sacrifice. As America's World War II orphans, we've been the driving force behind the Freedom Wall - the wall of gold stars at the National WWII Memorial; presenting Memorial Day wreaths at all 16 World War II American Cemeteries overseas, as well as several national cemeteries stateside, and creating and maintaining the only database of American fathers killed or missing during World War II, and of the orphans who honor them.

If you're a World War II orphan or family member, join us as we continue to find ways to honor those in our families who paid the ultimate price for the freedom we all enjoy.



Visit the AWON Website:
www.awon.org

Background Photo: Thanks to Manila American Cemetery

Member Benefits

- ★ Registry into the only database about American fathers who were killed or are missing from WWII, and their orphans
- ★ Father Tributes on the AWON Website, as well as other member-only website resources
- ★ Exclusive access to AWON electronic discussion board (List Server) about orphans and their fathers
- ★ Resources on MIAs who may be recoverable
- ★ WWII research assistance
- ★ Subscription to quarterly newsletter, *The Star*
- ★ AWON National Conferences and Regional Gatherings

Accomplishments

- ★ Driving force behind the Freedom Wall of 4,000 gold stars at National WWII Memorial
- ★ Created only database of American fathers killed or missing in WWII, and their orphans
- ★ Helped Congressional enactment of National Day of Remembrance of the end of WWII, set annually for the second Sunday in August
- ★ Created website (www.awon.org) as a WWII resource for both members and the public
- ★ Created Memorial Day Wreath Program that presents wreaths at all WWII American Cemeteries overseas
- ★ Established and maintains contacts with other military organizations, federal agencies and overseas friends
- ★ Launched an initiative to provide archive space and eventual permanent placement for AWON collections of historical value
- ★ Marked its 20th year in 2011



**An Organization of and for
the Sons and Daughters
of American World War II Casualties**

My father or other family member was killed in or died as a result of WWII.
Please send me an application form.

Details and dues information are online at:
www.awon.org (click on "Membership")

Name

Address

City

State Zip

Phone

Email

Father's or relative's name/relationship:

Clip and mail this form to:

AWON
National Headquarters
5745 Lee Road
Indianapolis, IN 46216

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